

Message Text

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TAGS: PROP, PFOR, DM, US

SUBJ: BENIN OFFICIAL MEDIA ATTACK SEC KISSINGER'S TACTICS

IN MOSCOW AND AMERICAN POLICIES TOWARD ANGOLA AND

OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

REF COTONOU 130,

SUMMARY: BENIN'S OFFICIAL MEDIA YESTERDAY CARRIED EDITORIAL
CRITICIZING SEC KISSINGER'S TACTICS IN MOSCOW AND ATTACKING
USG POLICIES TOWARD ANGOLA DN DEVELOPING COUNTIRES. IMPLI-
CATION IS THAT BENIN IS DETERMINED TO SPEAK OUT, AND HIT THE
USG, NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE ENDEAVOR TO BRING ABOUT A MODERATION
IN BENIN'S CONDUCT AND PUT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS BACK ON
BASIS OF RECIPROCAL RESPECT. END SUMMARY

1. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL IN JAN 27 OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER EHUZU,
REPEATED OVER THE OFFICIAL RADIO, SHARPLY ATTACKS USG. ENTITLED
"FOR THE DEFENSE OF OUR PERSONALITY," IT BEGINS WITH CRITICISM
OF SEC KISSINGER'S TACTICS IN MOSCOW AND DEVELOPES INTO A
GENERAL, THOUGH VEILED, BROADSIDE AGAINST USG. TEXT OF EDITORIAL
IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. " COMMENTING ON THE LAST TRIP OF MR KISSINGER TO THE
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USSR, THE WESTERN PRESS STATES THAT THE AMERICAN SEC OF STATE

RETURNED EMPTY-HANDED FROM MOSCOW BECAUSE OF THE SOVIET REFUSAL TO ACCEPT A 'MODUS VIVENDI' IN ANGOLA. THIS BARGAINING (MARCHANDAGE), IF IT HAD SUCCEEDED, WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTHING OTHER THAN AN IGNOMINIOUS SWAP, SINCE IT WAS PROPOSED BY THE USG REP IN EXCHANGE FOR PROGRESS IN THE 'SALT' NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH IS THE NAME GIVEN TO THE INTERMINABLE SOVIET-AMERICAN TALKS ON LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMS.

3. "NEVERTHELESS IT IS SURPRISING THAT THE CAPITALIST BOURGEOIS PRESS DOES NOT DRAW FROM THIS OCCURRENCE ANY OTHER CONCLUSION REGARDING THE ANGOLAN AFFAIR EXCEPT TO MAKE THIS SENSATIONAL REVELATION. ARE THEY NOT MAKING FUN OF AMERICA OUR DEAR CONTINENT AGAIN?

4. "IN TRUTH THE SWORN ENEMIES OF AFRICA WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO SEE THE RICH AFRICAN TERRITORY OF ANGOLA SACRIFICED BY THE SOVIETS AND THE AMERICANS ON ALTAR OF THEIR DETENTE. THEIR INTOXICATING PRESS, THE TRUE OPIUM TO BRUTALIZE THE REAL PEOPLE, WOULD NATURALLY NOT FAIL TO SPEAK OF THE EVENT WITH ALL ITS HABITUAL EMPHASIS AND VERBIAGE IN THIS FIELD.

5. "BUT THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM WAS FRUSTRATED. IT WILL BECOME EVEN MORE FRUSTRATED IN ITS DIABOLICAL STUBB LNNES TO STOP THE WHEEL OF HISTORY.

6. "THE WORLD, AS EVERYONE KNOWS, IS BEING TURNED UPSIDE DOWN BY THE IRRESISTIBLE STRUGGLE OF THIRLD WORLD PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES AGAINST COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM, RACISM, APARTHEID AND INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM.

7. "THE FIGHT OF THE THIRD WORLD FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, THE GREAT MILITARY AND POLITICAL VICTORIES OF THE PEOPLES OF INDOCHINA, THE GREAT SUCCESSES OF THE PALES-TINIAN PEOPLE, AND THE WORKERS' STRUGGLES IN EUROPE AND AMERICAN HAVE PLUNGED THE WESTERN CAPITALIST WORLD INTO A CRISIS WITHOUT PRECEDENT.

8. "THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN, BREAKING DEFINITELY WITH ITS COLONIAL AND NEO-COLONIAL PAST, AND FIXING AS ITS MAIN

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OBJECTIVE THE ERECTION OF A NEW SOCIETY, A SOCIALIST SOCIETY, HAS WRESTED ITS MILITANT PEOPLE FROM THE HIDEOUS CLUTCHES OF THIS AGONIZING AND DECADENT SYSTEM OF THE EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN.

9. "THIS PROVES THAT AFRICA AND OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HAVE DEFINITELY BECOME CONSCIOUS OF THEIR PERSONALITY, THEIR DIGNITY AND THEIR HONOR, WHICH THEY INTEND TO HAVE

RESPECTED AT ALL COSTS.

10. "THIS UNSHAKEABLE WILL TO INDEPENDENCE AND PROGRESS, NO FORCE IN THE WORLD CAN EVERY DESTROY. AS COMRADE KEREKOU AGAINS SAID RECENTLY TO AN AMB NEWLY ACCREDITED TO THIS COUNTRY, 'NO REAR-GUARD FIGHT, NO DELAYING OR DECEPTIVE ACTION CAN HALT THE PROCESS OF LIBERATION OF PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL AND NEO-COLONIAL DEOMINATION, OR THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM AND APARTHEID.'"

11. COMMENT. THIS EDITORIAL SHOULD BE READ IN CONNECTION WITH ADJIBADE'S SHARP DIRECT ATTACK ON THE USG AT ADDIS, WHICH CAME TO LIGHT ONLY TWO DAYS AGO (REFTEL). THE READER SHOULD NOT BE FOOLED BY THE LACK OF DIRECT MENTION OF USG AFTER THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THE EDITORIAL. USUALLY A GOVT ATTACKED IN THE BENIN MEDIA IS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED (SO THE BENIN GOVT CAN PROFESS, NO MATTER WHO PROTESTS, THAT THE PROTESTER IS NOT THE TARGET). WE ARE THE THINLY VEILED TARGET THROUGHOUT THE EDITORIAL, AS THE FRENCH HERE WOULD BE THE FIRST TO POINT OUT. THE IMPLICATIONS IN THE EDITORIAL, AS IN ADJIBADE'S SPEECH, IS THAT THE PRB IS DETERMINED TO SPEAK OUT, AND HIT THE USG, NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE ENDEAVOR TO BRING ABOUT A MODERATION IN BENIN'S CONDUCT AND PUT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS BACK ON A BASIS OF RECIPROCAL RESPECT AND RECIPROCAL CORDIALITY.
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